

# METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING MULTICAST DATA ON AN IP SUBNET

## Abstract

5

A communication system, in one embodiment, has set top boxes that have the ability to monitor the subnet to which they are coupled. A multicast router couples one or more groups, such as groups of video programs, to the set top boxes as requested by the set top boxes. If one set top box leaves a first group, for example, and thus sends a leave message to the router, the other set top box or boxes know to send a join message if they are subscribed to that first group. Thus, the router knows immediately to couple that first group on that subnet.